

WE CLAIM:

1. A computer program embodied in a machine-readable medium for providing controlled access to a home network, the computer program including instructions for causing one or more devices of the home network to perform steps comprising:

receiving a log-in attempt from a remote user, the log-in attempt originating from an Internet protocol address;

verifying that the remote user is an authorized user of the home network;

generating a network address translation rule associating the Internet protocol address with a port of a device on the home network;

displaying a graphical user interface to the remote user, the graphical user interface allowing the remote user to select only content or services that the remote user is authorized to select;

receiving a selection request from the remote user; and

providing content or services to the remote user according to the selection request.

2. The computer program of claim 1, the computer program further comprising instructions for causing a gateway of the home network to transmit authentication information regarding the remote user to one or more devices of the home network after verifying that the remote user is an authorized user of the home network.

3. The computer program of claim 1, the computer program further comprising instructions for causing a gateway of the home network to communicate with the remote user according to a first protocol different from

a second protocol used for communication between the gateway and one or more devices of the home network.

4. The computer program of claim 3, wherein the first protocol is HTTP.

5 5. The computer program of claim 3, wherein the second protocol is a content protocol.

6. A gateway configured to provide controlled access to a home network, the gateway comprising:

10 a first port configured to receive a log-in attempt from a remote user, the log-in attempt originating from an Internet protocol address;

a second port configured for attaching a network device of the home network; and

at least one processor configured to:

15 verify that the remote user is an authorized user of the home network;

generate a network address translation rule associating the Internet protocol address with the second port;

20 display a graphical user interface to the remote user, the graphical user interface allowing the remote user to select only content or services that the remote user is authorized to select;

25 receive a selection request from the remote user; and

provide content or services to the remote user from a device attached to the second port according to the selection request.

30 7. A method of providing controlled access to a home network, the method comprising:

receiving a log-in request from a remote user;

capturing the remote user's Internet protocol address;

authenticating the remote user;
automatically configuring a gateway to allow access
to predetermined content, services or devices by the
remote user; and

5 providing access to a portion of the predetermined
content, services or devices according to a selection of
the remote user.

8. A home network, comprising:
10 a first network device; and
 a gateway comprising a first port and a second port,
 the gateway configured to
 communicate with the first network device via
 the first port;
15 communicate with an external network via the
 second port;
 receive a log-in attempt from a remote user,
 the log-in attempt originating from an address on
 the external network;
20 verify that the remote user is an authorized
 user of the home network;
 generate a network address translation rule
 associating the address with the first port;
 display a graphical user interface to the
25 remote user, the graphical user interface allowing
 the remote user to select only content that the
 remote user is authorized to select;
 receive a first selection request from the
 remote user; and
30 provide content to the remote user from the
 first network device according to the first
 selection request.

9. The home network of claim 8, wherein the gateway
communicates with the first network device via a first

protocol different from a second protocol that the gateway uses for communication with the external network.

10. The home network of claim 8, wherein the first network device comprises a personal computer or a network attached storage device.

11. The home network of claim 8, further comprising a second network device, the gateway being further configured to:

display the graphical user interface to the remote user, the graphical user interface allowing the remote user to select services from the second network device that the remote user is authorized to select;

receive a second selection request from the remote user; and

provide services to the remote user from the second network device according to the second selection request.

12. The home network of claim 11, wherein the second network device is a webcam or a device for streaming audio data.

13. A method for providing controlled access to a home network, the method comprising:

receiving a log-in attempt from a remote user, the log-in attempt originating from an Internet protocol address;

automatically verifying that the remote user is an authorized user of the home network;

automatically generating a network address translation rule associating the Internet protocol address with a port of a device on the home network;

automatically displaying a graphical user interface to the remote user, the graphical user interface allowing the remote user to select only content or services that the remote user is authorized to select;

receiving a selection request from the remote user;
and

automatically providing content or services to the
remote user according to the selection request.

5 14. The method of claim 13, further comprising the step
of automatically transmitting authentication information
regarding the remote user to one or more devices of the
home network after automatically verifying that the
remote user is an authorized user of the home network.

10 15. The method of claim 13, further comprising
communicating with the remote user according to a first
protocol different from a second protocol used for
communication between the gateway and one or more devices
of the home network.

15 16. The method of claim 15, wherein the first protocol
is HTTP.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein the second protocol
is a content protocol.

20 18. A gateway for providing controlled access to a home
network, the gateway comprising:

means for receiving a log-in attempt from a remote
user, the log-in attempt originating from an Internet
protocol address;

25 means for verifying that the remote user is an
authorized user of the home network;

means for generating a network address translation
rule associating the Internet protocol address with a
port of a device on the home network;

30 means for displaying a graphical user interface to
the remote user, the graphical user interface allowing
the remote user to select only content or services that
the remote user is authorized to select;

means for receiving a selection request from the remote user; and

means for providing content or services to the remote user according to the selection request.